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A SAD BUT TRUE STORY.

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One silent summer eve, made fair
By many a lovely star,
I rambled forth to take the air,
Smoking a good segar;
To puff away my cares I sought,
To reverie inclined,
When there was suddenly a thought
Presented to my mind—
How grateful should I be to-night,
Who feel not destitution's blight;
How many in this town there be
Who gladly would exchange with me

My heart was full of feelings kind
For all humanity—
The poor, the sick, the lame, the blind,
All shared my sympathy—
When lo! a voice fell on my ears,
A trembling voice and low,
Like that of one who checks the tears
That seek to overflow.
I raised my eyes and saw a man,
With threadbare garb and visage wan;
Said he. "Kind sir, some help, I pray,
No food has passed my lips to-day."

I did not shrink nor hesitate,
But with a right good will,
To him who did expectant wait,
I gave a dollar bill.
He gazed a moment on the gift
So freely tendered him,
And then his eyes I saw him lift—
Those eyes with tears were dim—
"Oh thank me not, my friend," said I,
"For such a scanty charity;
Unto my humble offering
You're welcome as the flowers of spring."

He shook my hand, and rapidly
From me I saw him go,
When some strange impulse prompted me
To see what he would do.
As down the street he quickly went
I followed in his track;
He, not suspecting my intent,
Ne'er thought of looking back.
He had not traveled far before
He halted at a tavern door,
And, to my great astonishment,
Inside the house he quickly went.

The angry feelings of my heart
May not in verse be told—
It pierced me like an iron dart
To know that I was sold—
For as I pushed the door ajar,
And brought him into view,
He called six men up to the bar
And put the party through.
Now if I on the street should be
Besought again for charity,
I'll treat it as a splendid joke,
And keep my money in my poke.

LONDON AFTER DARK.

On this Tale is Founded the Popular Drama.

CHAPTER XXI.

NEW OBSTACLES TO BE SURMOUNTED—THE ENERGY OF CRIME.

Millington was very anxious to know how matters were proceeding at "The Laurels." He had promised Richard Brandon not again to go thither without any intention of keeping his word, because it was necessary that Walter should be allowed no opportunity to swerve from that marriage, which he who had first planned it was still determined should take effect. Richard Brandon would not even suspect him of going thither, believing that all motive for such a step had been removed. About to set forth on his way to the villa, on the same evening that occurred there the events related in the last preceding chapter, he was very agreeably surprised by the unexpected appearance before him of Sharkey Morris. Millington had spoken truly at the tavern when saying that his associate in crime was not then in London. The assertion, however, that Morris had in his possession the document which Millington was engaging to surrender was a complete falsehood. That important document had never left Millington's own keeping, and was lying snugly in the breast pocket of his coat at the very time of his interview with the man to whom he had promised to deliver it. Millington's true reason for that delay of three days which he had demanded was, that without Sharkey Morris the terrible purpose on which he had resolved could not be accomplished.

"Here I am again, you see," said Morris.

"And before your time," said Millington, "for I was not to expect your return until to-morrow."

"No, but the chap as we was going to nab shelled out, paid up like a man, and saved all bother."

"Well, Sharkey, old boy, I can only say that I was never more delighted to see you in all my life."

"Vy, vy?" anxiously inquired Morris; "anything gone wrong while I have been away?"

"Yes, but nothing that I cannot put right again."

"For gracious goodness sake, what has happened?"

"In the first place, Richard Brandon, the real Simon Pure, is in London, and has discovered all about the little game we have had in progress."

"Then we are done for!" cried Morris, in a great fright, "and all the money that I have been fool enough to advance is lost and gone. Oh, what a fool I was! I might have knowed how it would be."

"I don't see how," quietly responded Millington, "since I, who am far more knowing than you, never dreamed of such an interruption to our proceedings."

"Vell, it's all over, so there is no use in talking any more about it."

"All over," smiled Millington; "no, indeed, it is only just beginning."

"Vat do you mean?"

"Well, in the first place, Richard Brandon is prepared to give a thousand pounds for that particular paper which his brother signed."

"Come, now, that's something," cried Morris, comforted and consoled.

"Yes," returned Millington, "certainly it is something, but not enough."

"But if we can't have more?"

"But we will have more, Sharkey; we will have all which we promised ourselves when we determined on that marriage."

"I don't see how."

"I am not surprised at that. Listen, Sharkey."

"Go on, I'm a listening."

"I am to deliver up that paper to Richard Brandon, and to receive the thousand pounds he is to pay for it at your Music Hall."

"Well?"

"Well! don't you see? haven't you understood?"

"Understood what?"

Millington whispered a few words to Sharkey, who turned very pale and shook all over.

"No, no, not that—it's too dangerous—I dare not."

"Coward! hear all I have to say and you will see that we run not the slightest risk of detection."

"Ah! if I was only sure of that, sooner than lose all that money, vy, perhaps——"

"Come along; we must go now and see how affairs are at the villa, and, by the way, I will make you acquainted with my whole scheme, and convince you that your neck will be in no danger of a halter."

"Don't talk like that, Millington, pray don't, for I am shaking all over like a lump of jelly."

The conversation that passed between these two men as they wended their way towards Mr. Summerford's residence we need not give ourselves the trouble to relate, since all that was to result from it will soon be known to us.

They had reached to within about fifty yards of "The Laurels" when to their surprise they encountered Walter Brandon, rapidly making his way from the house to which those two had been proceeding.

"Stop, stop, my fine fellow," Millington accosted Walter; "do you usually walk at such a devil of a rate? If so, you should give quiet pedestrians warning of your coming, that for their own safety they may leave you a clear path."

"Perhaps the house is on fire and he is going for the engine," said Sharkey, making a poor attempt to be facetious, for his mind misgave him that he was about to hear some more unpleasant tidings.

"What is the matter with you? What has happened? Why don't you speak?" Millington said impatiently to young Brandon, whose agitation, increased by his unexpected meeting then with those two men, had for a few moments deprived him of the power to utter a single word.

Still without attempting to speak, Walter made an effort to dash past those two who were blocking the way against him.

But Millington fastened on him with a strong hand, and Walter, after one brief and vain attempt to free himself, ceased to struggle.

"What has come to you, man," angrily demanded Millington. "Whither would you go?"

"Anywhere, to the world's end—out of the world" now distractedly cried Walter.

"What then is the matter?" anxiously inquired Millington.

VELOCIPEDE RACE AT ST. CLOUD, MAY 31, 1868.

"I shall lose every farthing of my money, I can see that,' inwardly groaned Morris.

"Heartless villains! that could for your own vile ends so torture me, so rack my soul with the agony of remorse."

"Explain this to me, my friend," said Millington, "for may I perish this moment if I know what you are talking about."

"And I wish I may die, if it ain't a puzzler to me," said Sharkey.

"You told me that Eliza was dead"

"And so she is," replied Millington.

"Yes, of course she's dead, drown-ded," said Sharkey.

"Dare you repeat to me that detestable lie?"

"Curb your tongue, young fellow, or——"

"A lie, I say again, a lie, for I— "

"Well, what?"

"I have seen her."

"You are mad!"

"Perhaps her ghost has appeared to him," muttered Morris.

"I tell you, I have seen and spoken to her."

"Impossible," cried Millington, considerably staggered.

"Even now she is yonder, in that house, to which no more shall I return."

Millington and his friend were confounded with astonishment.

"I told you," said the former, "but that which I believed to be the truth, and if your senses have not played you false, if she be indeed living——"

"Oh, when I beheld her there, my brain reeled, my heart stood still, and I——"

"Fairly unbosomed yourself, I suppose, and confessed everything to the old merchant," ragefully cried Millington.

"Yes, yes, it's all up," groaned Sharkey Morris.

"No," said Walter, "he knows nothing; nor is it needed now that I should tell him how shamefully his generous, trusting nature has been abused."

"You are right; there is not the least occasion for such a ridiculous and mischievous proceeding," said Millington, in high satisfaction.

"No, for he will never see me more; I will fly now, at once, far from London, and beyond your reach."

"You will find that difficult, I fancy."

"Come the worst, I can but die, and heaven knows that I am weary of my life. Stand aside, let me go, let me go."

"Yes, certainly," returned Millington, "go by all means, if you desire it. Good night!"

He left the path free to Walter, who, without another word, dashed past the two men and fled away.

"There," cried Sharkey Morris, stamping about the pavement, "now it is all over. What did you let him go for; he'll take himself out of the way, there will be an exposure and we shall be the only victims."

"What a short sighted idiot you are, Sharkey!"

"Yes, I know I am an idiot to be done out of my money in such an easy way. And his brother will hear of what has happened, and then he won't care about the paper and we shan't get even that thousand pounds."

"Cease your howling; Walter is still as securely ours as though nothing of all that he has told us had occurred."

"How do you make that out?"

"Are you so stupid as to imagine that Walter Brandon will be able to make up his mind to quit London without his dear Eliza?"

"Eh!" cried Sharkey, brightening up, "'pon my vord, I think you are right."

"When am I wrong?" sniggled Millington.

"But now I think of it," said Morris, all his former uneasiness returning, "that doesn't mend our case."

"How is that?"

"Vhy, if he wants Eliza to leave London with him, she'll be ready enough to do it."

"I shall take care, however, that she does not."

"What will you do?"

"You will know all in good time. At present I shall say only that I am not easily to be baffled in aught that I will to do, and the marriage that I have planned shall yet take place, and all the profit that we have promised ourselves from it most surely will we realize."

"Vell, Mill., I know that when vonce you have begun anything, you are the chap to go through with it."

"Yes, and I am about to give you another proof that I do not hesitate at trifles."

"And I ain't pertickler myself, so long as I do not run no danger of being found out."

"I am quite sick of your poltroonrey, Sharkey."

"It aint my fault if I was born with a nervous constitution."

"And after all it doesn't much matter, for you cannot help but follow as I shall choose to lead."

"Vell, how are you going to manage in this new state of affairs?"

"Oh, be not alarmed; my plans are already formed concerning that."

"What a chap you are!" admiringly cried Sharkey. "You have, as I desired, found employment for old Boozey?" questioned Millington.

"Yes, I send him out with my bill boards, and find him other odd jobs."

"Then if I go straight away to your establishment——"

"You are sure to catch him; he is always back soon after dark."

"Very good."

"But what did you want me to give him work for?"

"Well, I have a particular reason for taking an interest in the old fellow."

"Vell, tell us?"

"No," shortly and sharply answered Millington. "There is a secret connected with that which must remain locked within my own breast."

"Then," thought Morris, "I shall try to find it out for myself."

"I will tell you only that I have kept old Boozey within my reach for an occasion——"

"Yes?"

"Which has this evening presented itself. While I go in search of him, do you remain here and await the coming forth of Eliza, who is not at all likely to be long before she leaves the villa, and as she has never seen you, you must accost her, and——"

"Vell, but," cried Sharkey, his uneasiness, as he called it, returning again, "I have just thought if Walter has said nothing, she may not have followed his example."

"She could not tell of the cheat we are practising on Summerford, for she knows nothing about it. I took care that Walter should not be fully informed till I had got him safely out of her clutches. All that she could tell, as I should manage with old Summerford, would have no power in breaking off the marriage."

"Vell, I hope so. But what am I to say to the gal when she comes out!"

"Draw nearer, Sharkey, and listen. And mark well my words, for the slightest mistake would frustrate everything."

CHAPTER XXII.

WALTER AND HIS TEMPTERS—MR. SUMMERFORD'S ESTABLISHMENT IN A VERY UNSETTLED STATE.

Hurrying from the villa, Walter, in the hall, ran full butt against the retired merchant and sent him rolling till he was stopped by his back bumping against the hall door.

"For goodness' sake, what is the matter?" cried Summerford, observing the young man's wild and scared looks.

Walter spoke no word in reply, but, not urgently, drew the merchant from the door, opened it and darted forth. Summerford, in great alarm, hastily reclosed the door, and rolled up stairs as fast as he could in search of his daughter.

"Has something dreadful happened?" he demanded of Louisa. "Have you done something to drive him mad? what is it—oh! what is it?"

But Louisa was almost as much in the dark as her father. All she could do was to tell Mr. Summerford of Eliza's arrival, and of that young girl's strange words and mysterious conduct during the few hours that she had been in the house. Then she related how she had found Eliza and the supposed Richard Brandon together in that room and told how strangely they both had acted. All that occupied a considerable time in the telling, for Louisa was too astounded and bewildered by what had occurred to be anything like concise in her narrative, to say nothing of the many interruptions she received from her father, who rolled about the room, groaning and gesticulating in a manner not to be described. And at last, when he had heard all that Louisa could say on the subject:—

"I am just as wise now about it all as I was before," said Summerford. "Why did Richard go out of the house in that sort of way, sending me bump against the door and knocking all the breath out of my body? And where is he gone? Isn't he coming back to marry you, my child?"

"He may come back, if he pleases," thought Louisa, "but if, after this, my father still expects me to entertain an idea of becoming the gentleman's wife, there is a very great disappointment in store for him."

"What are we to do, Louisa?" petulantly cried Summerford; "why don't you say what we are to do?"

"I don't see, father, that we can do anything."

"Then more shame for you."

"Except, perhaps——"

"Ah, yes?"

"Question the poor girl who has been the cause of——"

"True! To be sure!"

"Though I doubt if we shall be any the wiser for what she will say."

"Oh, but I will make her speak—she shall—if she doesn't I'll lock her up."

"Lock her up, indeed," laughed Louisa. "What for?—she hasn't stolen anything?"

"No, but she has turned my house and everybody about it, topsy-turvy—has driven me out of my wits."

"I am afraid, father," said Louisa, still laughing, that those are charges upon which no policeman would take her into custody. But, come along, let's go to her."

Mr. Summerford and his daughter passed through several rooms without seeing anything of Eliza, and reached at length that one to which the poor girl had been conducted, in order that she might don the attire in which Louisa had so greatly admired her.

And no sooner was that apartment gained than—

"She is gone!—she is gone!" exclaimed Miss Summerford.

"How do you know? how do you know?" hastily cried the merchant.

Louisa pointed to a white dress lying across a chair, and had no difficulty in divining what was indeed the fact.

Eliza had returned to that room to cast from her the white dress in which Miss Summerford had insisted on clothing her, had resumed her own poor apparel and had escaped from the house.

"Poor girl!" pityingly murmured Louisa.

"Don't dare to pity her," angrily cried Summerford. "Who is she? How dare she come here to ruin all my hopes and send me raving mad!"

"It is a most mysterious business altogether," said Louisa, "and I am dying with curiosity to know what it all means."

"And I am dying with exhaustion," responded the merchant, "such dreadful shocks are too much for a man at my time of life; so, so—come along, Loo, let's go to dinner; it's now more than an hour past our usual time and I am ready to drop."

The confusion and excitement that had reigned above stairs soon became known to the household below, though very imperfect and incorrect was the information that had traveled down stairs respecting the commotion in the higher regions. And soon the hubbub below far exceeded that which, at its very worst, had prevailed above.

"Oh, the worthless hussy, to come here and make all this mischief!" stormed Betsy Greesby. "My first notion of her was right, when I made up my mind that she was a bad 'un, and if I wasn't a good natured fool and so easy led away, all this dreadful business wouldn't have happened, and I shouldn't have had to keep the dinner waiting about till everything was as dry as chips."

"Ah, well," said the butler, endeavoring to teach himself resignation, "it can't be helped now, and we can't say it was our fault."

"Our fault," broke forth the cook; no, "but it was your fault, Mr. Seller, and you ought to be ashamed to show your face anywhere after this!"

"Good gracious, Betsy!" cried the flabbergasted butler, "what can you mean?"

"Don't Betsy me, sir. I see now how I have been deluded, and what a fool I was to let them persuade me that what I had been told before about you and that girl was only a joke; it was all true enough; that was she, and it was your artful contrivance to bring her into the house, and to hoodwink me. Oh, you shameless villain! I wouldn't mind taking a long journey to go and see you hanged, that I wouldn't!"

"Come, come, Elizabeth," chafed the butler, "I can put up with a good deal from a woman——"

"A woman! who do you call a woman?"

"But when you come to talk to me in this sort of way, lowering my dignity before all the servants, and teaching them to treat me with disrespect, it's more than mortal man could put up with," raged the butler, glancing round upon the listening domestics, and feeling cut to the soul as he saw that the kitchenmaid had a broad grin on her grimy countenance.

"Don't think to carry it off in that way," said Betsy, with a savage sneer; "I understand it all well enough, and you and that impudent Mr. Grover understood one another; it was all settled between you; you told him to write that letter to blind me—yes, yes, I know! But you see, I am not so stupid as you thought I was."

"It's all your cousin's fault, that's the truth of the matter," shouted the butler; "and she ought to have known better than give a character to a girl like that."

"I don't believe she did; it's my opinion that she knows nothing about it, and that it was a plot of yours and of that fellow Grover's, who is just as bad as you are."

"You seemed to think a good deal of him though when he was here the other night," spitefully cried Mr. Seller.

"I didn't look at him as you did at my cousin Caroline," retorted Betsy Greesby. "But don't talk to me about such rubbish; I wish there wasn't a man in the world, that I do!"

One of the servants had gone to the door to answer the bell, and just as the little difference between the butler and the cook had reached this interesting point, in walked Miss Caroline Cook and Sam Grover.

"How d'ye do, Betsy, dear? how d'ye do, Mr. Seller?" commenced Caroline Cook, and nodding in a condescending sort of way to the rest of the servants. "You know I promised you, Betsy, that I would give you a call again soon, and as I had to come part of your road to-day on a little business, I thought I might as well go on a little farther and—— But I had a deal of trouble to get Mr. Grover as far; he kept on wanting to turn back every minute, making all sorts of ridiculous excuses, and several times, if I had'nt held him fast, I do believe he would have run away from me."

Having gabbled on thus far, Miss Cook at last stopped, fully expecting that somebody else would say something; but, to her surprise, when she left off speaking, there ensued a perfect silence, and looking first at her cousin and then at the butler, she saw very plainly that something was amiss with them.

"For goodness' sake, what is the matter with both of you? Caroline anxiously inquired.

And Sam Grover, too, wondered, and, remembering his recommendation of Eliza, of which he had not ventured to say a word to his betrothed, felt very uncomfortable, and was oppressed with indefinable misgivings.

"Caroline," began Betsy Greesby, struggling hard to appear calm and collected, "it's not in my nature to wear two faces with anybody—I am a plain woman——"

"I don't think so," said Sam, with a weak attempt to be jocular; "and I am sure Mr. Seller does'nt."

"Keep your observations to yourself, sir," sternly cried the cook.

While the butler flashed on Sam a look that ought to have annihilated him.

"Did you," demanded the cook, "recommend a young woman to us, and ask us to——"

"Me?" hastily interrupted Caroline; "never!—'tisn't likely I should do such a thing as that."

"There," triumphantly exclaimed Betsy Greesby, "didn't I say so! Mr. Grover, however, sent a young woman here with a letter—a dreadful, wicked creature. Oh! I can't tell you what she has done."

And indeed Betsy could not, for she didn't know.

"Oh, you did sir, did you?" cried Miss Cook, turning fiercely on Sam.

"Yes," said the cook, "a creature that Mr. Seller formerly made love to and wished to provide for."

"No, no," cried Caroline, "that's not it; I understand it well enough; that girl is one of the pretty acquaintances that Mr. Grover has made since he has been in London, and being too poor himself to assist her, he wrote to you in the hope that——"

"But I haven't—I never wrote any letter," declared Sam, who could see no other way by which he might have a chance of getting out of the scrape.

"But I have seen the letter," said Betsy, "and it's got your signature to it."

"Then it's a forgery," boldly asserted Sam, with a significant sign to the butler.

"There," exclaimed Betsy, "I saw him wink at Mr. Seller; if I could have had any doubt before, I am satisfied now."

"Mr. Grover," cried Caroline, "I have done with you forever. I am going off home this moment—good-bye, Betsy, dear—and I shall go alone, and if you presume to follow me, it will be worse for you. "Oh!" she groaned, as she rushed out of the house, "what a lucky escape I have had—what a monster I was going to marry!"

"Mr. Seller," said the cook, marching up to the butler, "you needn't take any more inquiries about that public house, if you want me to be the landlady of it, for I shall have no more to say to you."

"I assure you, my dear Elizabeth," trembled the butler, "I am as innocent as a new born babe."

"Yes, Miss Greesby," timorously ventured Sam, "we are both innocent and you and Caroline are laboring under a dreadful error."

"You are a pair of villains, and I don't know which is the worst of the two. Never you dare to come near me again, Mr. Seller. If ever again you come sneaking and trying to kiss me when I am cooking my dinner, hang me if I don't knock you down with the dripping pan!"

Away flounced Betsy Greesby and the two men were left to themselves, in a state of mind not at all to be envied.

Both were silent for a while, neither of them in fact knowing what to say.

Sam Grover was the first to speak.

"Well, this is a rum set out, isn't it, Mr. Seller? And I don't know now what it all means. You don't know old Boosey—but it was he asked me to speak a good word for that girl, whoever she was, for I don't know and I really thought——But, I say, Mr. Seller, what has she done? what's all the row been about?"

The butler began to cry, and drew forth his pocket handkerchief to mop away his tears.

"Betsy is lost to me," he whimpered; "and that public house would have been such a bargain."

"Lost? Nonsense," Sam confidently said; "you will be all right again, and so shall I. They'll cool down again and come to their senses and then, you just trust to me, and keep your heart up, and don't cry, old man!"

Mr. Seller, banishing all his weakness, drew himself to his full height, and in a boldly authoritative tone, said, while pointing majestically to the door——

"Get out! leave the house directly; and if ever you dare to show your nose here again, I wish I may be smothered if I don't set the dog at you."

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN ELIZA AND SHARKEY MORRIS—THE SNARE SPREAD.

When Millington was gone and Sharkey Morris was left alone to watch and wait for Eliza, the Jew said to himself:—

"What did Millington mean by saying that, if the gal consented to take herself out of the way, he should be saved the trouble of causing her to be put out of the way! But I needn't ask myself that, considering how well I know him. And I can't help myself now, but must go along with him whether I like it or no. And I don't like it; I'm getting frightened out of my life, and begin to wish I had kept clear of the business altogether."

Eliza came flying from the villa and towards the man who was waiting to accost her.

"I beg your pardon, miss," said Sharkey, planting himself in her path and arresting her steps, "but, if you please, are you Miss Eliza?"

"Eliza is my name," she answered; "who are you that——"

"I have been waiting here to speak with you, at the request of——"

"Of whom?"

"My friend, Walter Brandon."

Eliza uttered an exclamation of delight.

"Oh! is that indeed true?"

"Why should you doubt it? You know of course that he has quitted yonder house?"

"I believed so."

"Oh, yes, quite half an hour ago, and doesn't mean to go there any more, you may be sure of that."

"Dear Walter," inaudibly whispered Eliza.

"But the man who urged him against his will to that marriage——"

"The villain Millington?"

"Yes, that's him—vell, he advanced money to my friend Walter——"

"I know, I know!"

"To a large amount; and made him sign to certain documents—and now, my poor friend Walter is in danger of being arrested and thrown into prison."

"Oh, heaven!"

"So he is obliged to conceal himself till he can escape from London."

"Conceal himself?"

"Yes, but not for long, because I am arranging everything to get him out of the vay, and he vill soon be off without a soul knowing anything about it."

"How good of you!"

"There, there, ve von't talk about that—Walter and I were friends in his prosperous days, and if I hadn't been called abroad, he shouldn't have vanted for help to keep him out of the serious scrape into which he has now got himself."

"Generous man!" gratefully exclaimed Eliza. "Ah, had others remained as true to him!"

"It's a wicket world, my dear young lady, there's no denying it. But I was going to say that Walter wishes you to start off directly for Worcester; to wait there till he comes to you; for that's the place he means to go to and expects to be there almost as soon as you are."

"Depart without him," resolutely cried Eliza; "no, never, never."

"Well, but—when I tell you——"

"Now that he is in danger, it is my duty to be near him; I ought not, and I will not leave London without Walter."

"But if that couldn't be anyhow—if it was necessary for his safety that he should go alone?"

"Pray pardon me, sir, but I have so greatly suffered that my heart has lost all confidence, and I see around me but snares and treachery. Do I not know that an endeavor has been made to separate me for ever from Walter, that it has been sought to make him marry with another, and what if now an effort to remove me were being made in order to bring about the accomplishment of that marriage——"

"My dear young lady——"

"Say that I am unjust, that I am mad, but I will not stir a step until very certain that Walter will not become the husband of another."

"Well, but I don't see how you——"

"I will return to the house that I but now have quitted."

"The devil!" Sharkey muttered to himself.

"To Miss Summerford—who possesses a noble heart—I will disclose the ties by which I am bound to Walter and he to me. I will tell her that 'tis me alone that Walter loves, for now I am well assured of that—and when she shall know all, then—then will I depart and go whither you would have me to wait the arrival of Walter."

"Um," thought Morris, "she will have it so, and will have only herself to blame."

Then he said aloud:—

"I can't at all condemn you for your suspicions; but you can do better than return to that house."

"How?"

"By seeing Walter himself."

"Oh, sir," eagerly cried Eliza, "if you will let me do that! Let me but see and speak to him, and afterwards I shall have courage and resignation."

"Well then, you shall see him."

"But where?"

"He is gone to conceal himself in a house at Westminster, near the park; you must go to Storey's Gate—if you don't know it, anybody will tell you where that is, hardly a stone's throw from *Big Ben*."

"And you are sure that I shall find him there?"

"No, miss, you won't find him there—but, just inside the park, you will find a man waiting that will take you to my friend, Walter."

"Oh, thank you, thank you!"

"But, you see, miss, we are obliged to be very careful so that he mayn't be arrested and clapped into jail."

"Oh, yes, yes," faltered Eliza.

"So we have agreed on a sort of pass word—something mysterious, that nobody else is likely to get hold of——"

"And that is——"

"*I saw Mary Pritchard die!*"

Eliza faintly screamed.

"Oh, heaven," she said, "why those terrible words?"

"Are you afraid to say them?"

"Afraid! no—since you tell me that Walter has chosen them."

"Certainly; it was he, and nobody else."

"Then I hesitate no longer," said Eliza, resolving in her own mind to learn from Walter how he had been led to employ those singular words.

"Farewell, sir; I will go to him at once," she added, and was moving away.

"Stay," Sharkey Morris called to her.

"What more?" asked Eliza.

"Just one word, that's all."

"Yes."

"Is it the only way by which you can be persuaded to leave London alone?"

"Most certainly."

"Very well, miss, then—good night."

"Good night, sir."

"Ah," Sharkey said to himself, looking after her, "I rather think that, before it's over, you'll find it's a bad night for you, my gal!"

TO BE CONTINUED.

VELOCIPEDE RACING.

Velocipedomania is the malady of the day in France, and even in this country it is beginning to be felt. Every one who desires to follow the fashion in Paris has his velocipede and mounts it, and Professors of the velocipede abound. M. Paz, director of the Grand Gymnasium, Paris, was sent to the neighboring nations to study the progress of the velocipede, and he returned in despair, exclaiming:—"Let Consuls take care! France is inferior to Germany in Velocipedes." That is not all; in some places it threatens to dethrone the horse. Races frequently take place, and St. Cloud was not long since the scene of a very interesting race, a sketch of which is given on the first page of this week's CLIPPER. A correspondent thus describes a velocipede race which recently took place there:—

"The starting point is indicated by tall flag-staffs, and as each race is called, the competitors emerge one by one from the Avenue de Girardin and take up their positions abreast of each other, but hardly six clear feet apart, as prescribed by the official regulations. They are all muscular looking young men—not decked out, as is generally the case at these competitions, in colored jockey caps and jackets, but wearing loose ordinary coats and tall boots, into which the ends of their trowsers are thrust. The course, which is 1,800 metres in length (about a mile and a furlong) is in part over a stone paved road. Still, the distance was accomplished by the winner of the prize for velocipedes with two wheels in four minutes and twenty-five seconds, or at the rate of upwards of fifteen miles an hour, the velocipedes with three wheels being half as long again, namely, six minutes and twenty-eight seconds, in accomplishing the same distance. The starter had a large flag which he grounded as a signal, and the judge wore the ribbon of the Legion of Honor. The course, which was very badly kept by the numerous gendarmes, sergeants de ville and "gardes du lac," was lined the entire distance by crowds of people, who loudly cheered the victorious charioteer as he passed the winning post. No sooner had he dismounted than a foaming glass of beer was handed to him by some attendant Ganymede, after quaffing which he was ready to receive the congratulations of his friends."

The vehicle now attracting so much attention is not, as the majority of persons imagine, an entirely new invention, but was brought before the public many years ago, as will be observed by the following extract from the *Washington Gazette* of Nov. 9th, 1822:—"A man upon a new sort of velocipede attracted a number of people together at the Elephant and Castle, London, recently, to witness his activity and the swiftness with which he travels. He is a shoemaker by trade, and finding the trade bad at Newark-on-Trent, in Nottinghamshire, of which place he is a native, he built this mechanical horse, as he terms it. It is on a different plan from the others. It is worked by two handles, which set two wheels in motion and cause two levers in front to be put in motion, which set the machine going at the rate of at least six miles an hour. It is the completest machine of the kind that has yet been invented. He has traveled in fine weather sixty miles a day. He has two iron stirrups in which he places his feet; they keep him steady on the side." The only difference between the velocipede of that period and the French now in use, appears to be in the manner of propulsion, the latter having for its motive power the feet instead of the hands, an improvement which increases its velocity while entailing less physical exertion. Though in some portions of France, Germany and other parts of the continent, the velocipede has long been known and may be said to have come into general use, it has been only within the past few months that the innovation has been brought prominently to the attention of the American public. Our people are proverbially of a go-aheadative character, and anything in the shape of novelty, in ke ping with the spirit of the age, always excites their interest, and if found to combine pleasure with profit seldom fails to meet with such success as it may merit; therefore, judging from the interest which has already been manifested in the velocipede by our citizens, and the fact that it presents a new and agreeable means of recreation, while affording to those who reside some miles away from their places of business a chance to go and return quickly, at the same time as it enables them to take beneficial exercise precluded by the ordinary modes of transit, it is reasonable to predict that the velocipedomania will increase until the invention becomes nearly as much in use here as in France. To our sporting friends it furnishes another species of pastime, and we doubt not that ere long we shall have an opportunity of witnessing a contest between experts similar to that represented by our illustration in this number; such an event would certainly attract a large assemblage of interested spectators. There are at present several manufactories of the velocipedes in this country, and from the orders already received the business promises ere long to become quite extensive. A school has also been established in this city, where competent teachers give instruction to those who wish to master the machine, and here may be observed victims of the mania in all its phases.

DEER PARKS IN ENGLAND.—The only part of England in which wild red deer are found in any considerable number and regularly hunted is a district of the north of Devon and Somerset. The herds of red deer which once roamed over Devon and Somerset and parts of Cornwall gradually receded before the advance of agriculture, till, towards the end of the last century, the remnant found a comparatively secure retreat in the wild region of Exmoor. Red deer lingered in Cornwall until a recent period, and one or two are still occasionally seen in the extensive coverts on the eastern border of the county, but the large herds have long disappeared. Fifty years ago red deer roamed over the barren tracts of Bagshot. The new forest contained large herds both of fallow and red deer down to the year 1851, when, having become a prolific source of crime, they were removed or destroyed. Poaching had long been carried on in a very systematic and cruel manner, the deer being snared by hooks baited with apples suspended on strong cords from the boughs of trees. The forest of Dean, the most beautiful and varied of all the royal forests, was deprived of its deer about the same time. Nowhere had poaching been so daringly committed. Bands of armed men, too numerous and formidable for keepers to interfere with, shot deer in the open day and carried them off by night. One of the devices resorted to for killing deer in this forest was for a man to

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For Theatrical, or other Advertisements coming under the head of Amusements, *fifteen cents per line* for each and every insertion.

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In our Leaded or Editorial Columns nothing of a paid character can appear, as we reserve that space for a free and independent expression of our own opinions.

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A Liberal Deduction from these rates will be made for Advertisements when paid for three months or longer *in advance*.

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All Business Letters or communications must be addressed to the undersigned:

FRANK QUEEN,
Editor and Proprietor New York Clipper,
No. 27 Spruce street, New York.

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HARRY MACARTHY

Opens with Sam Sharpley's Minstrels for four weeks, on Feb. 8. All communications must be addressed care of Wood's Museum, Chicago. (48-1t*)

D. B. HODGES, Business Manager.

1869. NEW CUTS. 1869.

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SPECIAL CARD.—The firms of Joseph Warren & Co. and Howard & Johnson have been consolidated, and the proprietors have formed a joint stock association under the name of THE COURIER COMPANY, Warren, Johnson & Co., Proprietors, for the purpose of carrying on all the branches of business hitherto transacted by the two firms. The Directors of the Company chosen for the first year are Joseph Warren, Ethan H. Howard, James M. Johnson, William C. Horan and Milo Stevens, and the following officers have been elected:—President, Joseph Warren; Vice President, James M. Johnson; Treasurer, E. H. Howard; Secretary, Milo Stevens. The considerations which have led to the consolidation of these remunerative printing establishments are the increase of facilities for doing a constantly increasing amount of business, the economy of management and the concentration of energy and capital.

The Counting Room of the COURIER and the Business Office of the Company is at the store, 197 Main street. The entrance to the Editorial, Composition and Newspaper Press Rooms will be by the staircase between Nos. 198 and 200 Washington street.

Send for our New Trade List.

WARREN, JOHNSON & CO., Proprietors.
W. C. HORAN, Superintendent. 42-3m

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